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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Ad Hoc Working Group on the Role
of Enterprises in Development
First session
Geneva, 3 April 1995
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Role of the State in creating an enabling environment for the promotion of entrepreneurship and the viable development of enterprises, especially SMEs, with reference to the following topics:

   (a) Regulatory framework and incentives structures;

   (b) Human resources development;

   (c) Institution building and institutional support;

   (d) The informal sector and its integration into the formal economy;

4. Export development and the role of SMEs, giving due consideration to possible advantages arising from the globalization process

5. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the Trade and Development Board.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees of the Trade and Development Board, the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Role of Enterprises in Development shall consist of seven members (a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur), to be elected from among the core membership 1/ in accordance with the following geographical distribution:

Lists A and C combined - 4
List B - 2
List D - 1.

In keeping with past practice, it is suggested that the Bureau of the Working Group serve for the entire duration of the life of the Working Group.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda for the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group was approved by the Monthly Consultations of the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD on 16 June 1994. The Ad Hoc Working Group will have available five working days from 3 to 7 April 1995. At the opening meeting, on 3 April 1995, a statement will be made by the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD or his representative. The remaining time of the Ad Hoc Working Group will be primarily devoted to items 3 and 4 of the agenda. In order to facilitate in-depth consideration of the items, it is proposed that the Ad Hoc Working Group meet in informal meetings after the opening meeting, and meet again formally to adopt its report. (For the tentative organization of work, see section III).

Item 3: The role of the State in creating an enabling environment for the promotion of entrepreneurship and the viable development of enterprises, especially SMEs, with reference to the following topics.

(a) Regulatory framework and incentives structures;

(b) Human resources development;

(c) Institution building and institutional support;

1/ In paragraph 77 of the Cartagena Commitment, the Conference specified that "... the core membership of these working groups will comprise all interested countries, which will nominate the relevant national experts. Other countries may participate in an observer capacity."

(d) The informal sector and its integration into the formal economy

In order to facilitate consideration of item 3, the secretariat has prepared a report entitled "Creating an enabling environment for the development of enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises" (TD/B/WG.7/2). The report draws inter alia on studies of country experiences, including those submitted by Governments in response to a questionnaire prepared by the secretariat, from the following countries: Bolivia, China, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Germany, Guinea, Kenya, Lithuania, Mauritius, Norway, Romania and Turkey.

Item 4: Export development and the role of SMEs giving due consideration to possible advantages arising from the globalization process

With a view to expediting substantive discussions of the Ad Hoc Working Group, the secretariat has prepared a report entitled "The role of small and medium-sized enterprises in export development" (TD/B/WG.7/3). Like document TD/B/WG.7/2, this report draws inter alia on studies of country experiences, including those submitted by Governments in response to a questionnaire prepared by the secretariat, as listed above.

Both reports raise and discuss major policy issues which can be the subjects of useful cross-country exchanges of lessons learned and insights gained from national experiences, thus enabling policy elements to be drawn for the formulation and implementation of policies at the national and international levels and "best practices" to be identified. In view of the links between the topics which the Ad Hoc Working Group has before it at both the first and the second sessions, appropriate references are made, although no detailed treatment is given, of issues related to the other topics with a view to promoting an integrated output at the end of the process.

Item 5: Provisional agenda for the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group

A draft provisional agenda for the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group will be submitted to the Ad Hoc Working Group for its consideration.

Item 6: Other business

Item 7: Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the Board

The Ad Hoc Working Group will submit a report on the results of its work to the Trade and Development Board.

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III. TENTATIVE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Monday 3 April	10 a.m.	Plenary: Opening of the session, followed by:
		Informal meeting:
		Item 3: The role of the State in creating an enabling environment for the promotion of entrepreneurship and the viable development of enterprises
	3 p.m.	idem
Tuesday 4 April	10 a.m.	idem
	3 p.m.	Informal meeting:
		Item 4: Export development and the role of SMEs giving due consideration to possible advantages arising from the globalization process
Wednesday 5 April	10 a.m.	idem
	3 p.m.	idem
Thursday 6 April	10 a.m.	Conclusion of consideration of items 3 and 4 Item 6: Other business
	3 p.m.	No meeting, to allow time for the preparation of the draft report
Friday 7 April	10 a.m.	idem
	3 p.m.	Plenary: Action on items 3 and 4. Item 5: Provisional agenda for the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group Item 7: Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the Board

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